
To: ConnectME Authority
Phil Lindley, Executive Director ConnectME

RE: Pre-Application Letter – 9th Round Grant

Project: County Rd FTTH, Linneus, ME

In response to the Authority's announcement of its Ninth Grant Round, Pioneer Wireless, Inc., dba Pioneer Broadband, ("Pioneer") is pleased to submit this Pre-Application letter for our "County Rd FTTH" Fiber To The Home project.

1. Description of service area with emphasis on "unserved".

We are proposing to install FTTH service on a 6 mile segment of the County Rd in Linneus. This segment of the County Rd includes 112 residences and a few businesses.

2. Description of communications with other providers:

We have studied this area and communicated with the other service providers (FairPoint and Polaris Cable) in the area. There is no evidence that they have plans to expand into this unserved section of road.

3. Description of project, type of service, technology, speed, and build time:

We intend to build fiberoptic lines to link back to our network on North St in Houlton. GPON taps will be added to connect FTTH technology to the residences.

The standard offer for broadband speed will be 30M/2M (Tier 6) delivered to each customer. It is estimated the installation of the backhaul links and taps can be completed within 18 months of funding depending on weather conditions when funding is made available. Customer installations can begin immediately once the fiberoptic lines are lit and operational.

4. Amount of funding requested:

Current estimated project cost is \$127,615. This amount is subject to change as project details are worked out and will be finalized within the formal application for this project. Pioneer is requesting funding for \$110,299 representing 86% of the estimated project cost.

5. Applicants financial capability and commitment to match and other funding.

Pioneer will fund \$17,316, or 14% of the estimated project cost. Appropriate documentation and evidence of funding availability will be provided in the formal application in a form acceptable to the Authority.

6. Percentage of households to be served and number of households:

There are an estimated 112 households served within the project service area. The area has several farm businesses, but is primarily residential. We calculate that the GPON FTTH technology can serve all 112 customers, thus providing 100% coverage in the project area.

7. Public-private partnerships and Community Support:

We are working with the Town of Linneus in support of this project. Evidence of partnerships and statements of support are being acquired and will be included within the formal application.

8. Applicants experience relevant to project:

Pioneer serves in 55 Maine towns from 80 locations, broad casting over 5000 square miles, and serving over 5000 customers via fiber optic cable, wireless, DSL, dialup. Pioneer has a proven track record of successful expansion activities and deep commitment to serving rural Maine. Pioneer has been the recipient of past grant funding from the ConnectME Authority as well.

We look forward to formal application availability and working with the Authority to bridge the digital divide for the residents and businesses of this area.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Flewelling

